

## Coins

# Teen team takes the scholarship lead

By Roger Boye

AMONG the estimated 10 million coin collectors in America are many young persons, some of whom take the hobby more seriously than most adults.

Two such youths from the Chicago area are Robert Gartenberg, 16, of Wilmette and Brad Stych, 17, of Algonquin. Both were among the 14 young numismatists from around the country who won scholarships to the annual American Numismatic Association summer seminar held last month in Colorado Springs. More than 100 young numismatists had applied for the scholarships.

During the one-week semi-

nar, Gartenberg studied colonial and early American coins, and Stych studied coin grading.

Both scholarship winners praised the quality of in-

ceived some pennies when he was 5 years old from his great-grandfather. He became intrigued by the lettering on the coins and said he then began to study coins.

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struction at the seminars. The students of numismatics also took a VIP tour of the Denver Mint while in Colorado.

Gartenberg said he began collecting coins when he re-

One of the first things he learned was to call pennies by their correct name, "cents."

Gartenberg is currently secretary and program chairman for the Morton

Grove Coin Club, one of the many clubs in the Chicago area.

Stych has been collecting for about five years and his collection began with four 1964 Kennedy half-dollars. He is a member of the McHenry County Association of Numismatics.

Collecting coins should not be viewed so much as an investment, Stych said, but as a way to appreciate the history behind coins and their beauty.

"The real value in a coin is not in how much it is worth, but the meaning expressed by the design and elegance of the time in which it was minted," Stych added.